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EXAMINER	
REAGAN, JAMES A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3621	

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/576,462	THOMPSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James A. Reagan	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 September 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-53 and 55-62* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-53 and 55-62* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in response to the amendment received on 11 September 2003 (paper #19).

2. Claim 54 has been cancelled (paper #19).

3. Claims 1-53 and 55-62 have been examined.

4. The rejections of claims 1-53 and 55-62 have been updated.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

5. Applicant's arguments received on 11 September 2003 (paper #19) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

6. The objections to the drawing as noted in the previous Office action is hereby withdrawn.

Specification

7. The objections to the drawing as noted in the previous Office action is hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poole et al. (US 6,460,020).

Examiner's note: Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply. Applicant, in preparing the response, should consider fully the *entire* reference as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Claim 1:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *inputting invoice data associated with an import/export transaction at a first terminal coupled to the network, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;*
- *transferring the invoice data from the first terminal to a server hosting a database of product identifiers and tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers;*
- *matching the product identifier identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database; and*

- *outputting a data record in response to the matching step, wherein the data record includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifier identifying the product;*

Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively.

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claims 2, 3, 11 and 12:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *e-mailing the data record to a second terminal coupled to the network.*
- *downloading the data record to a second terminal coupled to the network.*

Poole discloses sending the order (data record) to the vendor (second terminal) electronically (column 9, lines 10 - 12 and column 10, lines 18 – 25).

Claims 4 and 13:

With regard to the limitation of:

- *printing the data record*

Poole discloses that paper copies can be generated (column 10, lines 18 – 22).

Claims 5, 14 and 21:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *the data record is downloaded in response to access of the data record in the server by a second terminal using a web browser.*

- *the data record is downloaded in response to access of the data record in the server by the second terminal using a web browser, wherein the network is the Internet.*
- *the second computer accesses the data record via web link between the second computer and the server.*

Poole discloses that the vendor (second terminal) connects to the transaction system to generate the data record. Although Poole do not specifically disclose how the vendor accesses the system (whether a private link or public - website), Poole does disclose that the system is on a website (column 4, lines 47 – 51). Therefore, it is considered that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the vendor of Poole to access the system via a website. It is not uncommon for many web sites to have areas of the site sectioned off according to the information contained therein, such as when there are icons indicating "wholesalers" and "retailers", since Poole teaches that the system is accessible by a website.

Claims 6, 7, 15, 16 and 20:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *electronically transmitting the invoice data from the first terminal to the server.*
- *inputting the invoice data into a web site associated with the database.*

- *the first computer uploads the invoice data via a web link associated with the server.*

Poole discloses that the information (invoice data) from the customer (first terminal) is transmitted/inputted to the system operator/website (server), which is associated with the third database (Applicants' database). See at least column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 20.

Claims 8, 17, 23, 31, 43, and 52:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.*
- *updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.*
- *a program operable for updating the database.*
- *a program operable for modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or import/export transaction information corresponding to each of the product identifiers to ensure legal compliance of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding import/export transaction information.*
- *updating the database to ensure that the associations of the harmonized tariff numbers with the customer's product numbers are in compliance with the country's customs regulations.*

Poole discloses catalogs maintained on a database which can be updated (column 1, lines 30-41), as well as the conversion rate for currency is continually updated. See also, columns 6 and 7, lines 3 -18 and lines 15 - 27. Poole does

not specifically disclose *modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers to ensure an accuracy of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classification information.* However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database arts to update product information because it provides a powerful tool for organizing and updating products and product information, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claims 9 and 18:

With regard to the limitations of *recording results of the matching step into a transaction database hosted by the server, Poole disclose updating a database as shown above in the rejections of claims* 8, 17, 23 and 31. It would be an obvious modification of Poole to store results of queries performed on a database, since databases are designed to store records such as financial transactions.

Claim 10:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *means for inputting invoice data associated with an import/export transaction at a first terminal coupled to the network, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;*

- *means for transferring the invoice data from the first terminal to a server hosting a database of product identifiers and tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers;*
- *means for matching the product identifiers identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database; and*
- *means for outputting a data record in response to the matching of the product identifier identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database, wherein the data record includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifiers identifying the product.*

Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' means for inputting reads on an keyboard/mouse or other input device, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance

and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively.

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claim 19:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *a server, coupled to the Internet, hosting a database of product identifiers and corresponding import/export transaction information.*
- *a first computer, coupled to the Internet, operable for uploading invoice data, containing at least one product identifier associated with an import/export item, to the server over the Internet;*

- *a program operable for matching the at least one product identifier with a product identifier contained in the database of product identifiers and outputting a data record including import/export transaction information corresponding to the at least one product identifier, and*
- *a second computer, coupled to the Internet, operable for accessing the data record over the Internet.*

Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively. Applicants' server reads on the web site of column 3, lines 41 - 44, Applicants' first computer reads on the computer operated by the customer,

Applicants' program reads on the program used by the third database, and Applicants' second computer reads on the vendor's computer.

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claim 22:

With regard to the limitation of *the data record is transformed into a customs report for transmittal to a customs entity*, Poole discloses that a customs report is transmitted to a customs entity. See column 10, lines 22 - 27.

Claim 24:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *first programming steps operable for establishing a first web page, accessible by a first user at a first terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits the first user to input invoice data*

associated with an import/export transaction, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier for a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;

- *second programming steps operable for matching the product identifier included in the invoice data to a database of product identifiers and corresponding tariff classifications resulting in an output of a data record containing a tariff classification matched with the product identifier identifying the product to be transported in the import/export transaction; and*
- *third programming steps operable for establishing a second web page, accessible by a second user at a second terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits the second user to output the data record through the second web page.*

Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least,

freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively. Applicants' server reads on the web site of column 3, lines 41 - 44, Applicants' first computer reads on the computer operated by the customer, Applicants' program reads on the program used by the third database, and Applicants' second computer reads on the vendor's computer.

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claim 25:

With regard to the limitation of *the database is stored on a server coupled to the Internet,* Poole discloses Internet-accessible databases (column 1, lines 30-49).

Claim 26:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *fourth programming steps operable for establishing a third web page, accessible by a third user at a third terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits the third user to update the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classifications in the database*

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claims 27, 28, 39, 40, 46, and 47:

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole also teaches that a product from a

particular vendor (thus a particular identifier) may be selected, column 5, lines 2 - 58. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *the product identifier is unique to a particular company;*
- *the import/export transaction is associated with the particular company;*

However, Examiner takes **Official Notice** that it is old and well known in the financial and transactional arts to assign company unique part numbers or product ID numbers to specific products, as well as associating identifiable transactions with specific companies. Since duties and tariffs are heavily taxed and regulated, maintaining precise records of products bought and sold internationally provides a record for assessing taxes and fees.

Claims 29 and 41:

With regard to the limitation of *the first terminal is coupled to the server over the network,* Poole teaches that the customer interacts with the system via the Internet.

Claim 30:

With regard to the limitation of *the matching step results in the tariff classification information being assigned to the product identifier included in the invoice data,* Poole teaches that the third database assigns/outputs commodity codes (tariff classification information) corresponding to the products selected by the customer.

Claims 32 and 44:

With regard to the limitation of *the invoice data lists products to be imported/exported, and each product is identified with a product identifier,* Poole teaches that the invoice contains the products to be imported/exported along with a commodity code corresponding to the products selected.

Claims 33, 45, and 49:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *the tariff classification information is a harmonized tariff number for a particular country.*
- *the import/export transaction information is a harmonized tariff number for a particular country.*

Poole et al teaches that the tariff classification information is a code for a particular country. See column 6, lines 51 - 61.

Claim 34:

With regard to the limitation of *creating a customs entry report for the import/export transaction,* Poole disclose determining the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected/input by the customer and placing them in "order" form (customs entry report).

Claim 36:

With regard to the limitation of *creating a master report to facilitate the import/export transaction,* Poole teaches creating custom entry reports for customers. See columns 11 - 12, lines 35 - 67 and 1 – 53.

Claims 37 and 60:

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *displaying a harmonized tariff schedule in a split screen during the matching step.*
- *linking to a harmonized tariff schedule in a split screen with the data record.*

However, Examiner takes **Official Notice** that it is old and well known in the computer arts to use split-screen display devices. Placing data alongside related data provides a user with an environment that encourages efficient comparisons and contrasts, as well as associations and relationships.

Claims 38, 50, and 55:

With regard to the limitation of *the database of product identifiers and tariff classification information is customized on a per customer basis to ensure that the matching of the product identifiers with the tariff classification numbers is in compliance with local customs regulations,* Poole teaches that for products selected by a customer, tariff classification information is provided on the customer's invoice. As there may be many customers desiring to purchase any amount of different types of products, each of the invoices provided by the system will be customized. Further, Poole teaches that upon looking up the commodity codes, formats for any necessary import/export data and

administrative requirements (compliance) for all countries involved are also considered.

Claim 42:

With regard to the limitation of *the matching program results in the import/export transaction information being assigned to the product identifier included in the invoice data,* Poole discloses accessing a third database for the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected by the customer and included in the invoice.

Claim 48:

With regard to the limitation of *the matching steps result in the tariff classifications being assigned to the product identifiers included in the invoice data,* Poole disclose accessing a third database for the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected by the customer and included in the invoice.

Claim 51:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *creating an invoice representing a purchase of the products by a customer resident within the country, wherein the invoice lists the products by product number;*
- *uploading invoice data over a network to a server from a workstation coupled to the server over the network, wherein the invoice data is an electronic version of the invoice;*

- *creating a database of customer products and tariff classification information, wherein the database is accessible by the server, wherein the database comprises product numbers for products particularly associated with the customer, wherein the product numbers are each assigned a harmonized tariff number particular to the country;*
- *comparing the product numbers in the invoice data to product numbers in the database to compile a customs entry report where the product numbers in the invoice are each assigned a harmonized tariff number;*
- *using the customs entry report to create a master report to facilitate entry of the products into the country, wherein the master report includes the harmonized tariff numbers assigned to each of the product numbers; and*
- *sending the master report to a government customs office.*

Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of creating an invoice reads on the products input by the customer, Applicants' step of uploading invoice data reads on the customer transmitting (electronically) the invoice to the transaction system, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, Applicants' step of creating a database reads on the third database, Applicants'

step of comparing the product numbers reads on the system of Poole determining the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected/input by the customer and placing them in "order" form (customs entry report), Applicants' step of using the customs entry report reads on putting the customer's "order" into proper form (master report) for "Customs", and Applicants' step of sending reads on "moving the papers... to the customs department", columns 11 - 12, lines 61 - 67 and lines I - 4, respectively, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively. Applicants' server reads on the web site of column 3, lines 41 - 44, Applicants' first computer reads on the computer operated by the customer, Applicants' program reads on the program used by the third database, and Applicants' second computer reads on the vendor's computer.

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff

classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claim 53:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *importing the products into the country; and*
- *facilitating passage of the products through the country's customs office using the master report created as a result of the comparing step.*

Applicants' step of importing/exporting and facilitating passage of the products read on the purpose of the system of Poole.

Claims 56 - 58:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *importing the product into a country using the data record.*
- *exporting the product into a country using the data record.*
- *the data record is used to facilitate the importing of the product into the country.*

Applicants' step of importing/exporting the product reads on the purpose of the system of Poole.

Claim 59:

With regard to the limitation of *the data record is used to create a customs entry report to facilitate the importing of the product into the country,* Poole disclose that the invoice (data record) is used to facilitate the importing of the product into the country.

Claim 61:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *inputting invoice data associated with an import/export transaction at a first terminal coupled to a computer network, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;*
- *transferring the invoice data from the first terminal to a server hosting a database of product identifiers and tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers;*
- *matching the product identifier identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database; and*
- *outputting a data record in response to the matching step, wherein the data record includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifier identifying the product;*
- *importing a product into a country using the data record.*

Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/First database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database, the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively, and Applicants' step of importing a product reads on the purpose of the system of Poole.

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for

organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

Claim 62:

With regard to the limitations of:

- *creating an invoice representing a purchase of the products by a customer resident within the country, wherein the invoice lists the products by product number; uploading invoice data over a network to a server from a workstation coupled to the server over the network, wherein the invoice data is an electronic version of the invoice;*
- *creating a database of customer products and tariff classification information, wherein the database is accessible by the server, wherein the database comprises product numbers for products particularly associated with the customer, wherein the product numbers are each assigned a harmonized tariff number particular to the country;*
- *comparing the product numbers in the invoice data to product numbers in the database to compile a customs entry report where the product numbers in the invoice are each assigned a harmonized tariff number;*

- *using the customs entry report to create a master report to facilitate entry of the products into the country, wherein the master report includes the harmonized tariff numbers assigned to each of the product numbers;*
- *sending the master report to a government customs office; importing the products into the country; and*
- *facilitating passage of the products through the country's customs office using the master report created as a result of the comparing step.*

Applicants' step of creating an invoice reads on the products input by the customer, Applicants' step of uploading invoice data reads on the customer transmitting (electronically) the invoice to the transaction system, Applicants' step of creating a database reads on the third database, Applicants' step of comparing the product numbers reads on the system of Poole determining the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected/input by the customer and placing them in "order" form (customs entry report), Applicants' step of using the customs entry report reads on putting the customer's "order" into proper form (master report) for "Customs", Applicants' step of sending reads on Poole electronically "moving the papers... to the customs department", columns 11 - 12, lines 61 - 67 and lines 1 - 4, respectively, Applicants' step of importing and facilitating passage of the products reads on the purpose of the system of Poole, column 4, lines 1 - 19.

Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. Kroenke, however, as shown in the enclosed reference, teaches database functionality and processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

10. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poole/Kroenke in view of "Customs and Trade Automated Interface Requirements".

Claim 35:

The combination of Poole/Kroenke discloses the international e-commerce system of Poole with Kroenke's database processing methods as shown above. Poole/Kroenke do not specifically disclose that *the customs entry report is sorted by tariff numbers.* However, Appendix G of "Customs and Trade Automated Interface Requirements", page G-10, states that tariff numbers out of sequence is an error. Hence, in order to comply with US Customs the tariff numbers must be

in order or sorted. Therefore, it is considered that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to sort the tariff numbers as this is a requirement of US Customs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **James A. Reagan** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-9131**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900.**

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-7687 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 308-1396 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.

JAR
24 November 2003

John W. Hayes

JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER